

**Department of Public Works and Transportation**

***DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES***



***MONTHLY REPORT  
NOVEMBER 1999***



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## **OVERVIEW**

### **Tonnage at a Glance**

The following table shows key material flows during the current month, during the fiscal years to date (FY Total), and during the current calendar month in the two prior fiscal years. (County fiscal year 2000 began July 1, 1999.)

<b>FACILITY</b>	<b>Nov FY 00</b>	<b>FY 00 Total</b>	<b>Nov FY 99</b>	<b>Nov FY 98</b>
Materials Recycling Facility <sup>(1)</sup>	5,121 Tons	24,246 Tons	5,093 Tons	5,076 Tons
Brunswick Landfill Facility	10,908 Tons	60,832 Tons	10,506 Tons	11,031 Tons
Ash Recycling <sup>(2)</sup>	2,785 Tons	15,063 Tons	N/A	N/A
Resource Recovery Facility <sup>(3)</sup>	40,756 Tons	208,851Tons	39,857 Tons	39,872 Tons
Yard Trim Compost Facility	14,943 Tons	27,519 Tons	13,046 Tons	4,423 Tons

<sup>(1)</sup>For FY00, MRF tons reported are outgoing. For previous years, incoming was reported.

<sup>(2)</sup>Tons shipped out to ash recycling facility during the indicated period. All tons so shipped are recycled.

<sup>(3)</sup>RRF tonnage refers to tons burned (processed). Waste shipped from the Transfer Station but not burned is in the pit and is not included in the tonnage presented here. For FY00, these tonnages are preliminary, with adjustments made in the December and June monthly reports.

### **Revenue Analysis and Systems Evaluation**

November was largely dedicated to completing the rate model and fiscal health spreadsheet as part of our FY01 budget submission. During November, we also processed thirty-seven nonresidential system benefits charge appeals, worked on current year revenue tracking, and continued to evaluate the MRF fee. The new MUNIS System does not yet allow us to retrieve necessary revenue data as planned. (MUNIS is the new computer system installed to help the Department of Finance, and others, track revenue charged on the tax bills. The glitch in data retrieval is expected to be temporary.) Therefore, we reviewed hard copy printouts that could be made available, and are manually consolidating the necessary information. We also added clarity and further modified the Solid Waste Collector/Hauler report to be sent out in December

for capturing private sector hauling activities during the second half of the calendar year. During November this office became the reviewer for the dissemination of consolidated tonnage information from the Division. This month, we also made a presentation to the County Council of our spreadsheet calculating the County's FY1999 Recycling Rate. We will add the text that goes with that spreadsheet in December and then forward the completed draft report to SWAC. Finally, section staff participated in screening recycling staff position candidates.

**Variable Rate**- During November staff was largely diverted to rate model work in connection with the budget cycle, and no Task Force meeting took place. However, progress was made on the variable rate front. We extensively interviewed staff at a jurisdiction already implementing variable rate and most similar to Montgomery County's situation, we got clarity on some legal points for implementation in Montgomery County, we further researched file information concerning the County pilots, and we began drafting a findings report.

## **CITIZEN COMMITTEES**

**Facilities Implementation Group (FIG)**- FIG held its third meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>. This was the first meeting for which all members were appointed and approved. All facilities were represented, and all but two voting members attended. A facilitator continues to conduct the meeting. The Group reached a consensus on a draft of its stated purpose and definition. General administrative items were discussed and settled. Use of one of the CD-ROM's that are available in libraries containing Continuous Emissions Monitoring data was demonstrated. Mr. Mathew McMillen was elected Chairman. The members agreed to meet again on January 18<sup>th</sup>, at which time the public meeting for the RRF Risk Management Plan will be held.

**Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan**- SCS completed drafts of the Analysis of Facility Traffic and Transportation Demand Management Program in February, and they will be distributed for comment to FIG members. The groundwater monitoring base maps are complete, and monitoring of groundwater and well water continues. An outline of the traffic safety training for facility contractors will be distributed to FIG.

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee**- SWAC met on November 2 at the Executive Office Building. The committee was briefed on DSWS Performance Indicators, Collections Overview and Targeted Participation Areas. The committee also received the Inspector General DSWS Performance Audit Report.

## **COLLECTIONS**

**Refuse**- November's refuse collections were normal with no disruptions to the scheduled work.

**Recycling** - Currently 35,280 homes are participating in the Mixed Paper Recycling Program. Work is now underway to prepare the door hangers for 25,241 homes in the northeast corner of the county, bringing the total to 60,521 by the end of January 2000.

**Contractor Performance** - During the month of November 1999, there were only 4 complaints not resolved by the contractors. All were corrected by the county. The number of complaints received in November 1999 totaled 465. This represents a 15.1% reduction from November 1998, which had a total of 548 complaints.

**Enforcement Actions**- In November, \$4,500 in tickets were written for violations of County solid waste laws.

**Customer Service** - For the month of November 1999, over 5,816 incoming calls were handled with over 307 follow-up calls (as a quality control check) by the Customer Service Staff. The Excel system has been integrated into the follow up call report. Also for the month of November, 760 bins were delivered.

**Volunteer Activities**- During the month of November, Master Recycler/Composter program volunteers contributed 327.5 hours of service and reached approximately 4,365 residents. The volunteers handled 472 calls to the Recycling Hotline with additional 297 calls coming into the hotline answering machine. Mixed paper issues (22.3%) and Household Hazardous waste questions (18.5%) were the leading topics of discussion. The Volunteer activities included two Household Hazardous Waste collections, at Briggs Chaney and Shady Grove, with several school presentations. The transition of the program base from the Agriculture Farm to the Transfer Station went smoothly with business as usual.

## **WASTE MINIMIZATION**

**Drop-off Programs**- A new Neighborhood Mulch Preserve was set up at the Colesville Maintenance Depot on Cape May Road, just off New Hampshire Avenue. The site will be open seven days a week, daylight hours only.

Research on pallet recycling continues. An IFB for textile recycling has been prepared.

**Department of Environmental Protection's Home Composting and Source Reduction Activities-** Participated in *America Recycles Day* at the Montgomery County MRF and provided hands-on worm composting demonstrations and composting clinic assistance, in addition to distributing literature, posters, and other materials concerning grasscycling, lawn care, home composting, and vermicomposting, including website information.

Provided public composting workshops at community centers, schools, and specially arranged workshops for garden clubs throughout the month. Also provided a seminar on composting education at the Baltimore County campus of the University of Maryland. Established a new VermiLab program at the new Forest Oak Middle School in Gaithersburg; began preliminary plans at the school to develop a recycling ideas garden and compost bin display. Responded to numerous inquiries from teachers, parents, and students regarding science projects involving composting.

## **HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAMS**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection-** Two HHW events were conducted in November; one at the Transfer Station which served 973 patrons, and the other at Briggs Chaney which served 380 patrons. The record turnout at the Transfer Station event was due in part to a delivery of HHW from Leisure World by their Public Works Department consisting of HHW from 305 households.

There were also an estimated 30 walk-ins, citizens who came to the Transfer Station in November with household hazardous waste to drop off.

**Small Quantity Generator (Ecowise) Program-** One Ecowise event was held in November. Eight companies attended.

## **AIR PERMITS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

**Resource Recovery Facility-** CEM Tracking of RRF Operations – In November, the Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEM) indicated that all three units were operating continuously until 11 PM on November 9, when Unit #3 was brought offline after completing stack testing on that unit. Since then,

Units 1 and 2 were operating continuously until November 21. Unit #1 was brought offline on November 21 because of a broken grate. Repairs were completed within 29 hours and the unit was brought back on line on November 23. Since then, Units 1 and 2 have been operating continuously till the end of November. There were no equipment malfunctions in November (other than the grate repair incident discussed above) that affected plant operations or stack emissions.

The 1999 annual stack emissions tests were conducted from November 2 through November 10. All three units were tested for stack emissions and other parameters required by the Air Permit issued by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Relative Accuracy Testing Audit (RATA) was also conducted for the CEM system on all three units. Ogden is expected to submit the results to the County within approximately 60 days.

**Oaks Landfill Energy Recovery Facility:** Leachate Evaporation Technology – The Leachate Thermal Treatment System (LTTS) was completely modified during the third week of November and the system started operating again on November 22. The facility was evaporating leachate at the rate of four to six gallons per minute (gpm). On Friday, November 26, due to power surge during a thunderstorm, the system tripped at approximately 12:30 PM. The contractor restarted the system the same evening, and it continued to operate until 8 AM on November 30, when the flare as well as the leachate transfer pumps shutdown briefly. The system was restarted at approximately 4 PM and continued to evaporate leachate at the rate of approximately 4 gpm. As per DSWS suggestion, the contractor is considering installing an automatic dialing system to alert the contractor's staff when the system is down. A meeting is scheduled with Bentech during the third week of December to discuss the facility operations.

**Yard Trim Composting Facility** – DSWS received the second draft of the Consent Agreement from the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). The document was reviewed by the office of the County Attorney and was transmitted back to MDE with a couple of suggestions. The Agency expects to finalize the document in December. The sixth wet sampling event (the third fall sampling event) was conducted during the late evening hours of November 26. With this event, fall sampling was concluded. Winter sampling will commence in December. The sampling program will continue through the end of May 2000. DSWS plans to meet with MDE in August 2000 to discuss the results of the program.

**Contractual Work** – ENSR submitted a pre-draft on the "RRF Non-air Media Ambient Sampling Program". In this report, ENSR summarized the firm's conclusions based on its independent review of the Weston report, and made

recommendations for future study. ENSR is continuing to work on the RRF ambient air sampling report and the epidemiological evaluation. The following reports prepared by ENSR will be available for distribution to the Facilities Implementation Group (FIG) in January 2000:

1. Updated Dispersion and Deposition Modeling Analysis for the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), as required by the Facilities Master Plan for Solid Waste Operations in the Dickerson Area.
2. The winter 1999 Water Quality Sampling Program conducted at the Montgomery County Yard Trim Composting Facility (YTCF).
3. Review of RRF Non-air media sampling results and ENSR's recommendations.

## **RECYCLING**

**Public Outreach** - The Year 2000 calendar is in the completion stage. It provides broad-based information on recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled products, and specific collection schedule changes to single-family households, multi-family property managers, and the coordinators of business recycling programs throughout the County. A recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled newsletter, distributed to community and business leaders was mailed out before Thanksgiving. The comprehensive outreach campaign on recycling, including radio spots, TV spots, transit ads and print ads, kicked off on America Recycles Day, November 15. Focus group sessions were conducted at the end of November to look at ways to increase participation in the mixed paper recycling program. Three groups were studied: single-family residents, townhouse residents, and single-family residents where Spanish is their primary language.

The week of November 8-15 was proclaimed America Recycles Week in Montgomery County. America Recycles Day events and activities included: the open house at the recycling center on Sunday, November 14, which attracted approximately 800 people, the Recycle Right Contest during the week of November 8-15, which recognized residents, employees, and organizations that are recycling correctly, and other activities. Media coverage for America Recycles Day throughout the region was very light—however, there was coverage in the Montgomery Journal of our Recycle Right single-family household winner.

The SORRT awareness campaign kicked off on Labor Day, September 6. Response has been strong. Calls regarding business recycling and the SORRT Program have increased since the campaign began. The campaign includes a



30-second TV advertisement, two 60-second radio spots, transit advertisements and print advertisements.

**Commercial Recycling and Waste Reduction-** Site visits and on-site consultations continued to be provided during the month of November. Staff hosted the Downlink Seminar on “Buying Recycled Products.” Participation was good and feedback was positive. November 1, 1999, Montgomery County Public Schools System re-started its recycling program. In an effort to get the schools off to a good start, staff at Solid Waste prepared recycling starter kits for all the schools and ordered and distributed temporary recycling containers for mixed paper. In addition, staff launched an aggressive campaign to get each school to select recycling coordinators. Staff has scheduled visits and training sessions with schools to assist them in re-invigorating their recycling efforts. The media campaign continued to get positive feedback, and the Division has received requests from some businesses to join the SORRT Program.

**Multi-Family Recycling-** Staff is in the process of developing our program for property managers, T.R.R.A.C. (Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums). This program is being established to help support the property management companies as well as motivate the residents to recycle more and more efficiently as we work toward our goal of recycling 50%. The program will have a newsletter, county sponsored seminars, and an awards effort to act as motivational aids to the properties, and perform numerous other functions for the community. The Division is also in the middle of a bin effectiveness study, which seems to be showing some promise toward determining if blue bins are indeed effective in multi-family dwellings. New advertising is in use that better targets the multi-family customer market. The Apartment Showcase is one of the more targeted publications being used to achieve this objective. Staff is proposing to amend the multi-family recycling regulations to add mixed paper to the list of required materials for recycling.

**Mixed Paper Recycling-** Troubleshooting in Areas #2 and #8, the only two areas receiving mixed paper collection curbside, has begun in earnest. Three focus group sessions were held to ascertain and assess the real and perceived barriers that may be hindering participation in mixed paper recycling at the curb.

## **FACILITY ACTIVITIES**

**Yard Trim Compost Facility-** Phase I of the pilot for tubgrinding of screening rejects is in progress but there was no site activity in November. Phase 1 allows for grinding of material from the 1998 batch (contains no storm debris).

Phase 2, the grinding of the 1999 batch containing storm debris, requires additional approval from Sugarloaf Citizens Association before proceeding.

Leaves arrived at the facility in expected amounts for this time of year. Quick processing of material was top priority of the MES on-site staff in order to minimize odors.

Bagging of Leafgro continues at the Transfer Station. In November, 19,050 bags were produced.

In November, 14,943 tons of leaves was received for processing and 4,930 cubic yards of Leafgro were sold.

**Resource Recovery Facility-** Deliveries to the Facility continue at a rate of more than 1,250 tons per day. Operations for the month generally consisted of two boilers, with the third boiler operating only the first nine days for the annual air emission testing. The units usually operated at 100% load to control refuse pit levels. 40,756 tons of waste was processed at the Facility.

The annual emissions testing was conducted from November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. An approved contractor, TESTAR, conducted testing. Initial results indicated the facility continues to operate well below its emission limits. A formal report is expected in approximately two months.

On November 21, unit #1 was removed from service to repair broken grate bars. The unit was returned to service approximately 29 hours later.

PEPCO dispatched the Facility to a reduced load on six occasions for a total lost generation time of approximately 17 hours, resulting in a loss of approximately 252 MWH and lost revenues of more than \$5,500.

The Facility sold 25,003 MWH during the month, for approximately \$600,000 in revenues.

CSX rail service reverted back to an unacceptable quality that is adversely affecting the operation of the Transfer Station. This issue has become a priority for the Division and additional meetings are planned with CSX management to develop long-term resolutions to these operating issues.

2,754 tons of yard material was shipped into the compost site by the rail system.

Approximately 2,785 tons of ash was shipped to the American Ash Recycling, Inc. facility in York, PA for recycling.

Mr. Steve Jenness, Ogden's Environmental Engineer for the Facility, was on site during emissions testing and for much of the remaining days of the month. There were no reportable air or water quality excursions during the month.

Mr. Ross Oliver, from the Maryland Department of the Environment was on site to observe emissions testing and performed an inspection of the air quality control system. Mr. Oliver met with personnel from the RRF and emissions testing contractor during his inspection and observations. Mr. Oliver also inspected the ash handling system and tipping floor. No problems were noted.

Progress was made with the report generator of the new CEM software (installed to complete the Y2K upgrades), but some problems persist. Data is being collected and stored properly in the system, but reading and printing the data from remote computers has been troublesome. The Division is getting data that comes directly from the system so monitoring the Facility operations continues without interruption. Ogden is working to resolve the errors as soon as possible.

More than 90 people toured the Facility including local citizens; members of the Poolesville Tiger Scouts; and Montgomery College students. Three members of FIG attended a tour and demonstration of the air emission control system.

**Materials Recovery Facility-** 2,895 tons of old newspaper; 1,194 tons of aluminum, glass, plastic, and tin cans; and 1,033 tons of mixed paper were marketed out of the Materials Recovery Facility in November 1999.

Electrical modifications were completed.

Construction continues for enabling increased paper storage and handling at the MRF. Presently, this consists of modifications to the former yard waste building to provide push walls and enclose the facility. Modifications to the MRF tipping floor are planned to start in January.

**Oaks Landfill-** The contractor for the Phase II closure construction, Barbella Environmental Technology, Inc., seeded and stabilized additional areas and completed geomembrane installation in the fourth of five Phase II subareas. Work on gabion down chutes and drainage channels continues. Barbella is approximately 75% complete with the Phase II work.

Cherry Hill Construction, the contractor for the Phase I closure construction (about 68 acres on the western side of the landfill) completed installing geomembrane and geocomposite in the first two subareas of Phase I (about 28 acres) and continues placing the soil layer over the geocomposite and seeding and stabilizing completed areas. Cherry Hill is approximately 35% done with the Phase I work.

SCS Field Services continues work on the methane migration problem identified on the northern side of the landfill. Two new gas monitoring wells were installed in November. Two new extraction wells to reduce methane migration were also installed in November and are scheduled for activation in early December. All information and field data is being shared with DEP.

**Transfer Station**- During November, Ogden Martin shipped via rail 38,500 tons of processible waste from the Transfer Station to the Resource Recovery Facility, 4,855 more tons than shipped in November, 1998.

Litter was collected along Shady Grove Road from Route 355 to the intersection with Muncaster Mill Road.

The reinforced concrete work for the DOT Type Nonprocessable Waste facility is complete. Completion of the roof and siding is delayed pending negotiation of a change order addressing minor changes to the roof and gutter design.

Bids for additional Master Plan improvements have been received and it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded allowing for commencement of construction in the spring of 2000. These improvements will include the separation and expansion of the recycling drop-off area, new road construction and a yard waste load out area.

Ogden started and completed repairs on a third of the tipping floor during the month.

**Site 2 Property Management**- DFS is following maintenance schedules for the properties. Winterizing the Chiswell farmhouse was initiated. A renovation plan is being developed through one of DFS's contractors. Red Wiggler Foundation (a non-profit organization assisting mentally challenged adults) worked for one week at the Chiswell farm, cleaning up around the buildings. Additional work is anticipated in the spring.

### **Out-of-County Haul**

**Brunswick County, Virginia** - During the month of November, about 8,120 tons of ash residue and 2,788 tons of nonprocessable waste were transported to the County's dedicated disposal cell at the Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc. Landfill in Brunswick County, Virginia. 378 tons of dirt and rock were recycled at Clean Rock in Hagerstown, MD.

**York, Pennsylvania** - During the month of November, 2,785 tons of ash residue (back hauled by rail from the RRF) were shipped from the Transfer Station to American Ash Recycling in York, Pennsylvania to be recycled into aggregate.

**Linden Farm Renovations**- The project is substantially complete but some items remain to be completed. Remaining construction activities being managed by DFS are in progress.

Phase I of the plantings to screen the Compost Facility from the Linden Farm is complete. The County and Sugarloaf are working with a landscape design firm to complete design of Phase II this fall. A draft plan, sufficient for budgeting purposes, has been completed and items included in the budget submittal.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Important Telephone Numbers**

General information on solid waste- 240/777-6400

Customer Service- 240/777-6410

Recycling Hotline- 301/590-0046 (Hours of operation: Mon. - Fri., 1:00 - 4:00 PM)

Transfer Station- 301/840-2370

Materials Recovery Facility- 301/417-1447- Maryland Environmental Service

Resource Recovery Facility- 301/349-5685 County Office  
301/916-3031 Ogden Martin Systems of Montgomery

Yard Trim Compost Facility- 301/428-8185

Internet for DSWS- [www.dpwt.com](http://www.dpwt.com), then click on Solid Waste Services

Note: All comments, questions, and suggestions on the contents of this report should be addressed to:

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## SOLID WASTE FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

<b><i>TOPIC OR FACILITY</i></b>	
Current Recycling Rate in Montgomery County	36%
Recycling Goal by 2000	50%
New Recycling Programs Scheduled for FY 00	Implementation of Residential Mixed Paper Collection March 1999- Textile Recycling Pilot began
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)	Guaranteed Capacity = 85% of 1800 tpd on an annual basis (558,450 tons/yr).
Yard Trim Composting Facility (DCF)	Operations Limited to Receipt of 77,000 tons/year under Sugarloaf Settlement Agreement. FY 98 tons received- 59,144
# Residences receiving trash collection by County contractors	82,599
# Residences receiving collection of recyclables in blue bins and yard waste collection	195,405
Term of out-of-county waste transportation and disposal contract with Brunswick Waste Management Facility, Inc.	June 19, 1997 through June 30, 2012 with an option for a five-year renewal. (Service started on October 20, 1997.)

## ***GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS***

AAR	American Ash Recycling
APC	Air Pollution Control
BFI	Browning Ferris Industries
CEM	Continuous Emissions Monitoring
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
COG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
CSX	Chesapeake Systems
DFS	Division of Facilities and Services
DSWS	Division of Solid Waste Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIG	Facilities Implementation Group
HCFA	Health Care Waste
IRS	Internal Revenue Financing Administration
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
LTTS	Leachate Thermal Treatment System
MDE	Maryland Department of Environment
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
PEPCO	Potomac Electric Power Company
"Red Wiggler"	Handicap Adult Development Group
ROL	Reduced Operating Level
RRF	Resource Recovery Facility
SORRT	Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee
TPD	Tons Per Day
YTCF	Yard Trim Composting Facility